



ST. GEORGE'S
Brockworth

July August
2021

**To journey in faith and share
God's love.**

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Please email: **stgeorgesbrockworthmag@gmail.com**
If unable to email, please deliver hard copy to the Church
Office.

Editorial Disclaimer & church policies :

Any ecclesiastical or political views contained in this magazine are not necessarily those of the PCC or the Editor. This church promotes good practice in work with children and young people. It has a current and active Child Protection Policy that's available to view at St George's Church & St George's Church Centre. St. George's, Brockworth is a Fair Trade Parish and supports the Parish Giving Scheme.

THIS MONTH'S COVER: Sudeley Castle gardens

Uncertainty is stressful. Not Knowing is fearful.

"If **uncertainty** is unacceptable to you, it turns into fear. If it is **perfectly acceptable**, it turns into **increased aliveness, alertness, and creativity.**" — Eckhart Tolle

An experiment conducted by the Neurology department at University College London in 2016, looked at the impact of uncertainty on the stress levels in the body. The study analysed the response to three different groups of people. All three groups were told they were going to perform a task, the first group were told they would 100% receive a mild electric shock after they had performed the task. The second group were told there would be no chance of receiving an electric shock after performing a task. The third group were told there would be a 50% chance of receiving a mild electric shock: they did not know for sure if a shock was going to happen, they were uncertain.



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The study concluded that, "it's **much worse not knowing** you are going to get a shock than knowing you definitely will or won't". **People are more stressed with not knowing.**

As **human beings we really like a sense of certainty** it gives us **security**. We like to think we are in control; where's the provision going to come from, or if we're going to die of this disease, or how this child is going to turn out, or if our job will still be there next month. **We feel safe when we know about the future.**

This presents a massive challenge to us, and because **we can't control everything all the time it causes us stress, anxiety, and worry**. Realising, or accepting, that we are not in control, not knowing what's going to happen, just like in the electric shock experiment, causes stress in us.

"Risk is measurable uncertainty"

"Uncertainty is unmeasurable risk"



Having good mental and physical health in the midst of uncertainty, is about learning to live with a sense of not knowing, and not being able to do something about it.

Can we ever get to a sense of ease, or peace in all circumstances?

As we journey through life each day, and sometimes each hour, we

are presented with uncertainty: we crash the car, fall off a bike, meet death too intimately, the rumour of redundancy, uncertainty of our income. It's uncomfortable and we find ourselves getting agitated, panicking, or going straight to angry.

There are many suggested models of how we might deal with uncertainty: meditation, mindfulness, yoga, etc., but are they just helping us survive? Maybe, surviving is all we manage, getting through each day knowing we survived another day (if you are in that place, please contact us, we believe in the power of prayer, and maybe you are desperate enough to try something as unknown as prayer).

But, do we just want to survive each day, or would we want to thrive?



If we took a step of faith, even if only as a thought experiment, and looked to the 2000-year-old teachings of Jesus we are encouraged to place our future, and our provision in the certainty of God.

Faith is our uncertainty met in the certainty of God: omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. That faith doesn't come naturally, it is practised daily in remembering the stories and promises of God, worked out through Jesus.

As an exercise of the imagination, what would your life look like if you put your uncertainty about life, work, family, or future into the certainty (or faithfulness) of Jesus.

If every time you felt anxious, because of not knowing what might happen, you said to yourself, 'OK Jesus, show me how you could be so certain. Show me how I can thrive in life when I don't know what will happen'.

Let me know how you get on.

Mike
Smith



QUIZ: WHO SAID IT?

1. There are three people in my marriage and it's a bit crowded.
2. They think it's all over, it is now.
3. The lady is not for turning.
4. I have a Dream.
5. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
6. If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.
7. Elementary, my dear Watson.
8. The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime.
9. An army marches on its stomach.
10. Come up and see me sometime.
11. A time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.
12. When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life.
13. A reduction in Sterling's worth would not diminish the "pound in your pocket.
14. There's no place like home.
15. 'Tis better to have loved and lost Than never to have loved at all.
16. Religion is the opiate of the masses.
17. No man is an island.
18. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.
19. No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion.
20. Dr Livingstone, I presume?

Bonus question: Which Brockworth housewife said, "You are in my way, I need the Kitchen"!

Answers Page 27

'Open the Book'.

Hopefully by the new academic year in September, the 'Open the Book' teams will be able to resume going into our schools.

As Gordon and I are moving to Pembrokeshire, Castle Hill OtB team will be short of members, so if you feel that you would enjoy dressing up and reading and acting out the stories of the bible with the help of the pupils then please contact Rona on 01452862475 or Rev Mike whose details are at the front of this magazine.

Many thanks in anticipation! Give it a go!! It's great fun!! Rona.

Message from Bishop Rachel Saying 'yes' to God

Last weekend I had the joy of being with the curates of this diocese as they gathered for a weekend of teaching, prayer and reflection; and next week I will be on retreat with those among them preparing for ordination as deacons and priests. This will be a significant landmark in their lives, but most importantly a significant landmark in the life of the Church, because ordination is primarily about the calling of the whole Body of Christ.

When those to be ordained priest and deacon stand in the cathedral and publicly say 'yes' to God, it is rooted in the 'yes' of baptism. It is why the ordination service begins with the words:

'The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his Kingdom'. I pray that we will all keep these words in mind as we emerge into the next season and experiment locally with new patterns of worship, so that all expressions of our gathered worship, not least across multi-parish benefices, send out the youngest to the oldest into daily life to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of God's Kingdom. If our local expressions of Church do not have this at the heart then we are in danger of *doing* Church but not *being* Church.

As I listen to the stories of those

coming to be ordained, and those once more coming to confirmation to confirm the promises that were made when they were baptised, often as tiny children, I am struck by the big 'yes' having often emerged from seemingly small words and encounters which have been fanned into flame by the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ's words as told in last Sunday's gospel reading (Mark 4:31 – 32) speak of the tiny seed growing into an enormous tree, whose branches become a place of welcome, hospitality, life, and home, for the birds of the air. Here is a picture of the Kingdom of God which begins with the small.

As the ordinands prepare to say 'yes' to serving Christ in their calling, may these coming weeks and months be a season for a fresh 'yes' to God from us all, from the youngest to the oldest. It is perhaps good to remember that this is not only the time of year for ordinations but it is also the time of year for our primary school leavers' services, taking place online at a school near you. It is a beautiful time of worship as the children look back with thanks and are sent out to the next chapter of their lives, amid so much that is uncertain and unknown. Yet children are often far better than adults at authentically living their faith in the small things of everyday life and being Church among the people and places of their week, including home and school. As we pray for our 15 new priests and six new deacons, and all those participating in a leavers' service in their school, let us continue to pray for one another that we would have

the courage, from the tiniest to the tallest, to say 'yes' to God afresh in our commitment to follow Christ, and to be expectant about what can take root and grow in the stuff of our everyday lives as we seek to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of God's Kingdom.

With my thanks and prayers as ever,

PS: On the subject of saying 'yes', please consider ...

Joining the next online LIFE

prayer gathering on Tuesday 6 July 5.30pm where Jo Wetherall will lead us in praying for children and families as part of the big picture. Even if you've never prayed before with other people beyond an act of

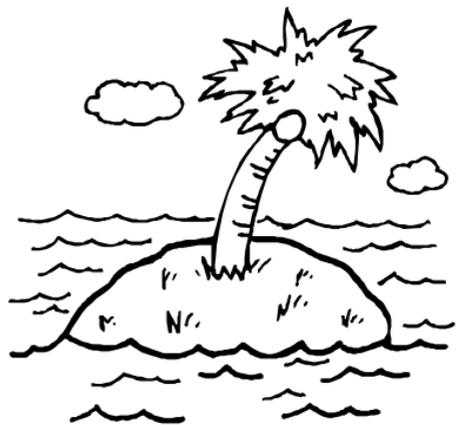
formal worship. All you need is 30 minutes and a desire to pray for tiny seeds to grow into large trees... Full details on the Diocesan website



+ Rachel

An evening of music.

I am hoping to hold an evening of music to raise money for St. George's Church (it was originally earmarked for 14th July but that has been scuppered by the continuation of restrictions). During lockdown I have often listened to 'Desert Island Discs' and found myself wondering what music I would choose if I were invited onto the programme. This then led to an idea that I could choose some of my favourite music and invite you to come and listen to it as a fund-raising event. Hopefully, we will include a musical quiz and there will be refreshments and a bar. I am hoping to arrange something in August. Please phone me on 862840 if you are interested and I can contact you with the details when I have any definite information.



Judy Baldwin

Listens, Observes and Acts.

Because we are still having to abide by covid restrictions
we are not holding a service in church again this year.

INSTEAD, WE ARE HOLDING
A 'SUMMER OF HOPE'

AND

MARY SUMNER DAY

AFTERNOON TEA

ON MONDAY 9TH AUGUST

AT Enid's home

(In the garden so bring a garden chair if you have one)

5 Noakes Road

Hucclecote GL3 3PE

from 3pm until 5pm

FIDDLE MUFFS

Some of our ladies have been making fiddle muffs to take into our local care homes to occupy dementia and stressed residents to calm them. If you feel you could help to make one or more of these please contact Enid, she also has a supply of buttons and beads if anyone making them needs any!

Love and hugs and prayers to Jean Corless who is now in
Monkscroft Care Home in Cheltenham.

This may be the last MU news that I write because as some of you may know Gordon and I have sold 'Ashdene' (subject to contract) and are in the process of buying a house in Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, West Wales to be near our son and daughter and their families. This is a big wrench to be leaving all our lovely St. George's family and friends but with advancing years we think it is the right move for us to make so we are putting ourselves in the hands of the Lord and will appreciate your prayers.

Many thanks to everyone who has, over the years, given us much kindness, care and love, prayer and support.

We will keep you all in our prayers always.

Grant us Lord, the grace to see your love in all created things that we may learn to love like you. Teach us Lord, that will to know your Spirit's power in us to feel that we may grow closer to you. So may each thought and word proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

Many blessings to you all, Rona.



**100 Club
June 2021
WINNERS**

1st — Christine Bartholomew (11)
2nd — Ann Mawson (40)
3rd — Steve Plant (98)

From the Registers—
May 2021

Baptisms

No baptisms during May

Weddings

No weddings during May

Funerals

No funerals during May

Please remember all who are sick or bereaved and who need our prayers:

*Heavenly Father, giver of life and health;
comfort and restore those who are sick and bereaved,
that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have
confidence in your unfailing love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

CHURCH DIARY—July 2021

3 rd	2.00pm	Wedding: Church
4 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
7 th	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre
10 th	12.00pm	Wedding: Church
11 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
14 th	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre
18 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
21 st	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre
23 rd	1.00pm	Wedding : Church
25 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
28 th	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre

CHURCH DIARY—August 2021

1 st	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
4 th	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre
	tbc	Wedding: Church
8 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
	2.00pm	Ice Cream Sunday: Church Centre

CHURCH DIARY—August 2021 (cont'd)

11 th	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre
14 th	tbc	Wedding: Church
15 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
18 th	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre
22 nd	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre
25 th	9.30am	Communion : Church Centre
28 th	7.00pm	Music Evening: Church Centre
29 th	9.00am	Communion Worship Service : Church Broadcast live on YouTube (or watch via Facebook)
	10.30am	Family Worship Service : Church Centre

We have now returned to our normal pattern of worship and all services can be attended in person (with limits on capacity).

Please remember, if you would like to be at a Sunday service in church or the Church Centre, you must contact the Church Office by email or phone to request a place; we will then confirm to you that your place has been booked.

Please can we emphasise, in order to keep everyone safe, do not arrive at a Sunday service if you haven't received confirmation that you have a place.

You no longer need to book a place at the 9.30am Communion in the Church Centre on a Wednesday.

Please ensure you wear a face covering to every service. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE: THESE ARE THE SERVICES/EVENTS THAT ARE TAKING PLACE AT THE TIME OF PRINTING AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/CHURCH CENTRE NOTICEBOARD OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

BIBLICAL CITIES CONTINUED : BETHANY

Dear Readers, if I asked you “what does Bethany mean to you I guess that you would say “It is a girl’s name, is it not?”. Well, you are right. It is a Hebrew name first listed in the UK in the 1940s and popular in the 1990s, but its popularity has since fallen away. It was more popular with Roman Catholics being bestowed in honour of Mary of Bethany, who was the sister of Martha and Lazarus. You may ask, what has that got to do with Bible? Answer, It is the name of a village (now a town) at the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives about 2 miles east of Jerusalem (John 11.18) It was considered a day’s journey because of the tortuous, mountainous terrain to overcome (Acts 1;12) on a popular trading route to Jericho. Bethany is a name that means “House of Figs” as there were many fig plantations in the area It was where Jesus stayed at the home of Simon the Leper during Holy Week, before his triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his crucifixion (Matthew 21:17). Bethany is probably best known for being the hometown of Jesus’ good friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Bethany was the place where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:41) There are 11 references in the Bible to Bethany, one that is significant as it is the place near which Christ ascended back into heaven (Luke 24:50). Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus gathered His eleven disciples to give them final instructions before He left

the earth (Luke 24:50–51). He took them to the Mount of Olives, in “the vicinity of Bethany” (verse 50), where He blessed them and commissioned them. The Lord was then lifted up into the clouds (Acts 1:9). As the disciples stood staring upwards, two angels appeared to them and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11). So, Dear Readers what do we know of Bethany today? It is known locally as Al-Eizariya meaning in Arabic a Place of Lazarus and is now a town in the West Bank. It is a town with a population of 22,175. The traditional site of the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead and the Tomb of Lazarus, in the town is currently a place of pilgrimage. One other site that is a must for pilgrims is the 2000-year-old house thought to be the site of the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Since the Six-Day War in 1967, Bethany has been occupied by Israel, and declared a closed military zone. Finally, in 2004, the Israeli West Bank barrier was built across Bethany's main road, curtailing the commerce in the strip of shops along the road, which drew both Arab and Jewish customers. Many Bethany Arabs have now re-located in the USA, Jordan, and other Arab states in the Middle East.

A.K.Delves

CHARITY DONATIONS

As some of you will have heard by now, we have accepted an offer on our house, where we have lived for almost 42 years and found a house to move to in West Wales to be near our two children John and Andrea in the near future.

We have collected items for charities for many many years from congregation members and make deliveries as and when, and of course when we leave St George's Church we would hate to think that these charities will miss out. It has become part of St George's Church outreach.

Let us explain some information and if anyone offers to continue collecting and delivering to these charities, then we can give full details. Let us re-assure everyone this is not an onerous task but an important one.

The Cobalt Unit, Cheltenham accepts any occasional cards all the year round and of course the two specified weeks after Christmas (Christmas Cards only) allowing them to up-cycle and re- sell cards which raises much needed monies for their charity.

James Hopkins Trust in Barnwood collects used postage stamps (UK & Foreign) and re-sells them to stamp dealers, again to raise funds. No stamp albums, just single stamps with 10mm envelope backing.

The Alzheimer's Society accepts broken, unwanted and single items of jewellery including watches (working or not). Their local office is in Gloucester for large donations, and we also have pre paid postage labels available to their (jewellery) head office for smaller amounts.

Used spectacles are welcomed by **Vision Aid or Sight Savers** and these are delivered to Vision Express (inside Tesco, Brockworth) or posted to **Marie Curie** in Edinburgh. No cases though.

All of these four charities welcome our donations and often comment that they are really grateful and it helps them raise funds for their charity, especially following the pandemic.

Please do pray and consider whether you can take over these charity collections / deliveries and make contact with us so that we can explain in more detail.

No moving dates to Fishguard have been agreed as yet and we will make ourselves available to explain any queries that you may have regarding any of the above.

With our love and prayers and thanks in advance of considering helping these worthwhile causes.

Gordon & Rona

My Favourite Poem, from Judy Baldwin

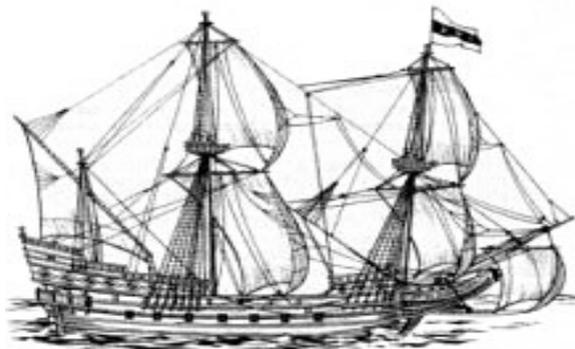
When I was in Primary school, I belonged to the school choir, and we took part in a school choir competition in Cheltenham. Sadly we didn't get anywhere but I do remember one of the songs that we sang. It was a poem by John Masefield that had been set to music. The tune, I'm afraid, is long forgotten but I still remember the wonderful poem. As an impressionable 9-year-old the words thrilled me and fed my imagination. Not that I understood them all. Quinquieme for instance, although at that time I assumed it was a large boat. But the whole thing brought wonderful images to my mind, even the dirty British coaster with its cheap tin trays. I still love the poem today and it still conjures up those exciting images from long ago.

Cargoes

Quinquieme of Nineveh from distant Ophir
Rowing home to haven in sunny Palestine,
 With a cargo of ivory,
 And apes and peacocks,
Sandalwood, cedarwood, and sweet white wine.

Stately Spanish galleon coming from the Isthmus,
Dipping through the Tropics by the palm-green shores,
 With a cargo of diamonds,
 Emeralds, amethysts,
Topazes, and cinnamon, and gold moidores.

Dirty British coaster with a salt-caked smoke stack,
Butting through the Channel in the mad March days,
 With a cargo of Tyne coal,
 Road-rails, pig-lead,
Firewood, iron-ware, and cheap tin trays.





Bedtime church brings families flocking

Amy Todd, Children and Youth Worker for Vale and Cotswold Edge tells about how they have stayed connected with local families throughout the pandemic.

Amy said, “On Sunday nights, we started off doing 6pm Bedtime Church. Children could come along in their pyjamas or dressed as superheroes or princesses. The children could chat, see one another and feel connected. Some families that were attending that didn’t come to Sunday school or mainstream church. They felt comfortable logging in to something that was aimed at children and the parents were around on the periphery. We don’t want to lose that connection.”

They started to create family packs full of themed crafts, prayers, activities and treats, which proved so popular that families they had never had previous contact with started to request them, hearing about them through friends. The number of children receiving the packs grew from 25 to 100 children plus youth groups for older children.

Amy said of the older children, “The group of young people we have at the moment are passionate about justice, black lives matter, the environment... They don’t want to be just a generation that talks about issues, they want to help to make change. We need them to know that the church doesn’t shy away from issues and that we are engaged with it and can provide wisdom and spiritual guidance in all areas of their life.”

Read the full story at <https://bit.ly/3vSisym>



Godparents' Sunday

Sunday 11 July is national Godparents Sunday (although of course any day is a good one to celebrate your godchildren).

Churches are being encouraged to hold a picnic for godparents, godchildren and the whole church family. There are resources available to help you plan at <https://churchsuppothub.org/godparents-sunday>

If your church is taking part, that's great news, but if not, why not plan something special to do with your godchildren this 11 July?

You might want to send them a card or a little present to let them know that you're thinking of them and that you still continue to pray for them regularly. You might want to invite them to spend some time with you, reconnecting after a year where we have all been apart far too much.

If you don't have any godchildren or godparents, you might want to pray for your local school, donate some money to a charity that supports children, locally or further afield, sign up to hear children read in school or think about a vision for your local church and how children and families fit into that vision.



Creating friendships across generations is so important not just for a thriving church but also for a thriving community. When a young mindset flows through the church, combining with the experience of older people, we all learn and grow in our faith together.



New eco resource for youth groups

9 out of 10 Christian teenagers surveyed by Tearfund are concerned about climate change, but just one in 10 believe their church is doing enough to respond to the climate crisis.

Caring for the environment is part of our responsibility as Christians and stewards of all that God has given us.

Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector for the Diocese of Gloucester wants to help give churches the tools to connect with young people and to ensure that church remains relevant to them.

He has put together an easy to follow programme for an evening of youth activities themed around the environment. It's free to download and to use and is aimed to make tackling this topic fun and inspiring.

With a quiz, a debate, personal challenges and videos to learn more, this will be an interesting evening for the young people and the leaders alike.

Download the resource from www.gloucester.anglican.org/2021/new-eco-resource-for-youth-groups

The first Christian Eco Youth Forum meetings for the Diocese of Gloucester happened at the end of June. Visit our website in July to find out more about what happened and to hear about the next steps.

Events and training

More details for these events and more, at
gloucester.anglican.org/events

LIFE Prayers – Children and Families

Tuesday 6 July, 5.30 pm - 6pm

A series of prayer meetings have been organised by Diocesan Missioner Tim Hastie-Smith. You are invited to join this evening of prayers via Zoom, where Jo Wetherall will be leading the session with a focus on Children and Families as part of the LIFE Vision. You can join the prayer meeting on Zoom here

<https://zoom.us/j/97290986173?pwd=VDRpeVZYSkhsL29UUlNOaDU4NHhoQT09>

Meeting ID: 972 9098 6173

Passcode: 356282

More than words

Wednesday 7 July,
7pm to 8.30pm

Lockdown has had a detrimental effect on babies and toddlers, especially regarding their attachment to significant adults and to the development of speech.

Jo Wetherall and Debbie Godsell will explore some of the insights into brain development, attachment theory and how it impacts language.

We will also explore how our understanding of being made in God's image can support our pandemic recovery ministry with children and families.

To book your place visit
<https://bit.ly/2TjytZ>

Have your say

Visit Facebook [f/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter [@glosdioc](https://twitter.com/glosdioc), view videos on YouTube [Diocese of Gloucester](https://www.youtube.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester) or visit our website [Gloucester.anglican.org](https://www.Gloucester.anglican.org)

What does worship at St George's Church look like in the future?

Following an incredibly challenging year, the Church of England recognises the need to explore new ways of worship and remain flexible and adaptable.

Bishop Rachel wrote recently: *"It is important to be clear that whatever our context for ministry we are not simply going back to where we were before the pandemic. This is a new morning. It will be really important that we take time to develop new and sustainable patterns of worship within our communities for the future. In many cases these will include a mix of in person and digital worship."*

Here at St George's, we've been talking and praying about what that means for us.

While restrictions remain in place, and we establish ourselves in the new post-Covid environment, we are keen to build the strongest possible foundation for the future growth of the whole church family.

We currently have enough resources and capacity to build on the 9am worship service in the Church, and the 10.30am All-Age worship service in the Church Centre, and we're hoping to offer something in between the two services to gather the whole church family based around coffee and a catch-up – maybe even a bacon butty! We are excited to see how we can promote, and God may grow, these worship gatherings when we're free of restrictions.

Towards the end of the year, we will look again to assess where and how we've grown. Please pray God would pour further blessing on St George's in this new season and pray for us all - every member of our church family - as we tread the delicate path into the public worship settings of the future.

While Covid still affects our lives with uncertainty, we should remain certain about one thing: faith in God places our feet on sure and solid ground. Whatever the future looks like we will not only survive, but thrive, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Hebrew 12:1-2 ... *let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross*

Let us keep Jesus at the centre of all our conversations, and pray for the peace and courage of God as we pray, "...your Kingdom come, your will be done..." – Amen?



July 2021

Daily Bible Readings:

Thursday 1st July	Genesis 22:1-19; Matthew 9:1-8
Friday 2nd July	Genesis 23:1-4,19;24:1-8,62-end; Matthew 9:9-13
Saturday 3rd July	Habakkuk 2:1-4; John 20:24-29
Monday 5th July	Genesis 28:10-end; Matthew 9:18-26
Tuesday 6th July	Genesis 32:22-end; Matthew 9:32-end
Wednesday 7th July	Genesis 41:55-end,42:5-7,17-end; Matthew 10:1-7
Thursday 8th July	Genesis 44:18-21,23-29;45:1-3; Matthew 10:7-15
Friday 9th July	Genesis 46:1-7,28-30; Matthew 10:16-23
Saturday 10th July	Genesis 49:29-end;50:15-25; Matthew 10:24-33
Monday 12th July	Exodus 1:8-14,22; Matthew 10:34-11:1
Tuesday 13th July	Exodus 2:1-15; Matthew 11:20-24
Wednesday 14th July	Exodus 3:1-6,9-12; Matthew 11:25-27
Thursday 15th July	Exodus 3:13-20; Matthew 11:28-end
Friday 16th July	Exodus 11:10-12:14; Matthew 12:1-8
Saturday 17th July	Exodus 12:37-42; Matthew 12:14-21
Monday 19th July	Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42
Tuesday 20th July	Exodus 14:21-15:1; Matthew 12:46-end
Wednesday 21st July	Exodus 16:1-5,9-15; Matthew 13:1-9
Thursday 22nd July	Exodus 19:1-2,9-11,16-20; Matthew 13:10-17
Friday 23rd July	Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 13:18-23
Saturday 24th July	Exodus 24:3-8; Matthew 13:24-30
Monday 26th July	Exodus 32:15-24,30-34; Matthew 13:31-35
Tuesday 27th July	Exodus 33:7-11;34:5-9,28; Matthew 13:36-43
Wednesday 28th July	Exodus 34:29-end; Matthew 13:44-46
Thursday 29th July	Exodus 40:16-21,34-end; Matthew 13:47-53
Friday 30th July	Leviticus 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34-37; Matthew 13:54-end
Saturday 31st July	Leviticus 25:1,8-17; Matthew 14:1-12



August 2021 Daily Bible Readings:

Monday 2nd August	Numbers 11:4-15; Matthew 14:13-21
Tuesday 3rd August	Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-end
Wednesday 4th August	Numbers 13:1-2,25-14:1,26-35; Matthew 15:21-28
Thursday 5th August	Numbers 20:1-13; Matthew 16:13-23
Friday 6th August	Deuteronomy 4:32-40; Matthew 16:24-end
Saturday 7th August	Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20
Monday 9th August	Deuteronomy 10:12-end; Matthew 17:22-end
Tuesday 10th August	Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14
Wednesday 11th August	Deuteronomy 34; Matthew 18:15-20
Thursday 12th August	Joshua 3:7-11,13-17; Matthew 18:21-19:1
Friday 13th August	Joshua 24:1-13; Matthew 19:3-12
Saturday 14th August	Joshua 24:14-29; Matthew 19:13-15
Monday 16th August	Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22
Tuesday 17th August	Judges 6:11-24; Matthew 19:23-end
Wednesday 18th August	Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16
Thursday 19th August	Judges 11:29-end; Matthew 22:1-14
Friday 20th August	Ruth 1:1,3-6,14-16,22; Matthew 22:34-40
Saturday 21st August	Ruth 2:1-3,8-11;4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12
Monday 23rd August	1 Thessalonians 1:1-5,8-end; Matthew 23:13-22
Tuesday 24th August	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26
Wednesday 25th August	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32
Thursday 26th August	1 Thessalonians 3:7-end; Matthew 24:42-end
Friday 27th August	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13
Saturday 28th August	1 Thessalonians 4:9-12; Matthew 25:14-30
Monday 30th August	1 Thessalonians 4:13-end; Luke 4:16-30
Tuesday 31st August	1 Thessalonians 5:1-6,9-11; Luke 4:31-37

**SAINTS ALIVE OR
MEMORIES OF MINISTRY
by David Sutch**

Numbers

Most school children know the story of Noah and the Ark and the animals loaded in two by two. Well, now that we were living in the country, and we had numbers of animals about us too. It all started in the attic which stretched from one end of the house to the other. We had a nest of starlings lodging with us. The day after we had moved, I was filling the attic space rather rapidly and each trip was made more hazardous by a swooping starling as it flew from the water tank to the other end of the loft and back again. The second of our two black cats, Tolkein, who had adopted us one day, decided that the pull-down ladder which provided us with easy access to the roof space, would provide him equally. As a cat he could tread more softly across the attic floor/bedroom ceilings, while I had to clamber around feeling carefully for the rafters.

I have never taught either of our cats, or seen them, naturally descend a ladder. By the time I had caught Tolkein and removed him from the attic, I was deafened by the squawking of the starling and scratched by the struggling animal I thought I was helping down.

We have since learned to make sure that the cat is not about when we went into the roof space. We learned by bitter experience that Tolkein very soon came to recognize the noises that heralded the lowering of the easy access ladder, and would appear at its

base almost as soon as its base arrived to touch the floor. In the interests of roof space, we had considered letting Tolkein into the attic to frighten the starlings away. The noise of a frightened starling led us to change our thinking rapidly. So, once again, the race was on. I chased Tolkein, who chased the screaming starling. My task was made more difficult by the facts of my height, weight, short arm reach, and the increased number of boxes, suitcases and trunks I had, by then, put into the attic.

Eventually after much unclerical language, and much toil, I captured Tolkein, only to be thanked with more scratches. Then I had to rescue the starling, who being smaller than the cat had escaped, feigning injury right in the eaves. In the end, I gave up. However, with a tail feather in my hand, having jerked it from the unfortunate bird who I thought was dead, and who wriggled further into the eaves.

The whole week was full of our meeting “animals”, now that we were in the country. Despite the snow shower in May, we visited the school, which was next door to our house, to introduce ourselves and the children to the school. The headmaster, a jolly giant from Wales, decided that I should visit each of the 12 classes to be introduced as “the Vicar next door who will be able to return the footballs which are frequently kicked over the dividing fence. At the same time, I was introduced to the staff. This is Miss; I never remembered their names until I met them again later, “she’s one of

your flock”.

Living in the country had its attractions. In our first week we were visited by a hedgehog, various squirrels, one of which was later seen under the dining room window eating our raspberries we had avoided picking so that a summer pudding could be decorated with fresh fruit. As there were wild cowslips growing in the lawn, I had strict instructions to mow around them.

The parish had provided a working party to sort out the garden the week before we arrived. The vegetable patch had been rotovated, turning all the weeds back into the ground, and had mown the lawns. That was a labour of love. I discovered by experience that it took 2 1/2 hours to cut the grass, and it had to be done regularly, especially as Garden Parties, tea parties and other outdoor events took place on our lawn. Living in the country also had its disadvantages. The first week, before I started work officially, witnessed many questions from our children that town dwellers do not have to answer. Our next-door neighbours had decided that that week was the very week when the calf born to their cow had to be sold so that they could profit from the milk. All that night the cow bellowed. Try explaining to urbanites why calves and their mothers have to be separated, and what happens at market. To add to our load that first busy week, our neighbour's bitch came on heat. We survived fairly well and now we can face detailed graphic and well-illustrated descriptions of how chickens are killed when their laying days are over, and how their successors, bought from chickens lib fare with the residents on their arrival.

We had every reason to be grateful to June and Craig and their boys, not only for the occasional delivery of “Daisy” milk, but for their tolerance of us urban bumpkins when it comes to collecting eggs. Daniel, aged 2 1/2 is convinced that he is picking eggs – well, after all, he is picking them up from where the hens have laid them. Boiling eggs with large biro-ed initials on them for tea is great fun. At least Daniel had the eggs he picked for his tea.

There were many interruptions to remind us that our idyllic country days would soon be interrupted by work. One evening, my presence was requested at the Church for a rehearsal of the service which would License me to work in this parish.

An immediate problem presented itself. There were no copies of the order of service. Under some local arrangements these were being printed and would be available for the service, but not for the rehearsal. My own copy, in draft form, was the fourth carbon copy, and so virtually unreadable. If only I had pressed the typewriter keys more firmly.

However, with this one copy we managed to practice what the great day would be like. The Rural Dean had us moving chairs hither and thither for imaginary guests or visiting dignitaries. We parted that evening assuring each other that it “would be alright on the night.”

Another interlude was a return to our old house to clean it throughout, and combine the visit with a chance to do our patriotic duty and vote in the elections. Not that our votes made any difference to the outcome.

We had arranged for the electricity

meter to be read that day, and at noon, John Spencer arrived to do the job. After renewing our acquaintance with his family and their church connections, he read the meter even though we had not finished using the hoover and the floor polisher. After voting, we went to the local for a pub lunch. Sitting quietly in the corner, in mufti, I noticed the landlady kept glancing in my direction. Although I had been at the opening of the pub, and drunk exceedingly well, by now the landlord had changed and I had not introduced myself to the new couple, partly because I used to do most of my drinking and visiting the strayed sheep in the community club. Eventually she plucked up her courage and as I collected our meal from the bar, she asked "Are you the Vicar?" well, technically I was, as I still had not been licensed to serve in our new parish, and yet we had moved. "Yes and No" I answered, and then explained. "Well, I wanted the little girl done." By now I had become to realize that a baby being "done" meant not a local immunization jab at the clinic, but Baptism. Unfortunately, some people treated it as the former despite our efforts at adequate preparation with home produced film strips and tapes. I left her with the name and address of my colleague, and suggested that the best thing was for her to contact him.

After our lunch we left the urban village for the country parish.

The day before my Licensing Service some friends of ours from a country parish in Devon, visited us. Naturally, they wanted to see the Church and I wanted to show them.

We wandered through the churchyard and paused in the porch to read the notices. The church door opened. From the inside. "You can't come in here" said a loudly whispered voice from a very pleasant face. "The Mothers Union are meeting". We beat a hasty retreat, and watched from a safe distance to see the end of the meeting and the dispersal the Mothers Union before showing our friends the church building.

The great day dawned clear and bright. Just right for putting some finishing touches to the decorating. We spent the morning daubing "sunshine yellow" emulsion on the walls. Later, splattered with yellow spots, I visited the Church to introduce myself to the church flower arrangers. They were doing a grand job, creating beauty out of a large collection of flowers.

After lunch, the Orders of Service arrived. Panic over – there would be time to pencil in a few notes and directions before the service.

The Service was due to start at 7.30pm. It's a grand occasion in the life of the local church. The Bishop, escorted by an Archdeacon, in the presence of many local clergy, process into a packed church, where the waiting congregation will get their first glimpse of the new man. After swearing obedience to the Queen, and to the Diocesan Bishop, the new parish priest is Licensed and then led around the church to the font, the pulpit, the lectern, and finally "installed" - put in his seat by the Archdeacon.

To add to the excitement, or the

flow of adrenalin for those who might panic, almost anything can go wrong. Michael Bacon, our elderly Lay Reader who had done sterling work during the interregnum, was to be the Bishop's chaplain, the person who holds his mitre and books and crosier and hopefully doesn't drop them and manages to juggle them into the right order as they are needed. With 10 minutes to go, he had not arrived. Then, one of the churchwardens, who had masterminded many of the arrangements, whispered to me in the vestry "Could I have a word with you outside?" We slipped out the back door and wandered among the graves, while he confessed to me that he did not know what had come over him. Fearing the worst, I uttered a silent prayer. What had happened was a spontaneous act of kindness at the joy of the occasion which heralded a reduction in the responsibilities which he had had placed upon him. Megan had arrived in Church and he had greeted her with a friendly kiss on the cheek before showing her to her seat reserved for her near the front. "I have to confess that I kissed your wife" said John, his finger rubbing his chin in a nervous manner. "How very kind of you." I answered, putting him at ease, "what a kind welcome into the Christian Family. Much relieved, we returned to the vestry. As I robed, I noticed raised eyebrows at my outfit. In the information I had been given about the Church, it stated clearly that a stole was worn for services. What it did not state was what the stole was worn over. I had chosen to wear, what in fact I had been wearing for a long time, a zip up

polyester cotton, drip dry hooded alb. It looks like, and has been called, a dressing gown. I calmly put this on impervious to the sideways glances from the Bishop and the Archdeacon. It was too late to change now, I had made my point.

We left the vestry by the back door to join the procession of visiting clergy, who had robed in the school hall. To our great surprise, the Dean of the Cathedral, who was our Patron of the Living, had decided to attend, and he had been directed to robe with the clergy in the school hall. Fortunately, he did not stand on ceremony. After a hasty revamping of the plan of campaign, it was decided that he, as Patron, should present me to the Bishop for Licensing, and the Rural Dean, who was to have done it could read the announcements and then sit with the choir, whereas the Dean would have a seat more suited to his station.

So, the grand occasion began. Because of the number of people involved in actually Licensing me, we were rather short of space around my seat, or stall. After all, as we wandered around the Church, we included the Archdeacon, the Bishop, his Chaplain, and an escort of two Churchwardens carrying their staves of office. Quite a crowd. The moment came for the Archdeacon to take me by the right hand and to lead me to my stall. He whispered "Sit down". I lowered myself down to find that the chair into which I had hoped to sit safely, being moved out of the way by Michael Bacon. My look appealed

to the Archdeacon to hold tight, to prevent me falling to the floor. His look was what I called a £7 look to Michael. These monetary looks increased in value over the years, as it corresponds with fee the clergy receive for a funeral. Indeed, the Archdeacon gave Michael a look that would have killed him there and then, “if looks could kill”.

Surely no more disasters could occur. It wasn't his fault, poor man. I had prepared my Sunday sermon with great care, as it was to be the first my new congregation would hear from me. The Bishop preached my sermon! or probably more likely, I had heard him preach before and was going to use some of his wisdom myself. I must admit that he preached it better than I had planned.

Unbeknown to us at the chancel end of the church, one faithful old lady had suffered a collapse. If only we had known! There were a number of doctors sitting nearer the front. The wail of the ambulance siren could not be heard above the singing, so it was not until afterwards that I heard of the lady's collapse.

It was rather like my last night at the previous parish – there was

little I could do for the relatives as they waited for news. She died without regaining consciousness. How glorious to die in the Lord's house.

After the service, there was a “bun fight” in the school hall. I arrived rather late as I had been handed a bunch of keys with a cheerful “they're all yours now Vicar”. The key duty had been performed by a rota of volunteers. Now there was a Vicar again, and he was handed the lot.

During the reception, the Bishop, who came from the same end of the Diocese from which I had moved, said “How lucky the parish is receiving David from. All the good people came from there to this end of the Diocese.” The Archdeacon, not to be outdone in his introducing of Megan and myself, reminded all that I had started my Ministry in “this end of the Diocese and was trained here, before going to the Bishop's end of the Diocese.”

We had officially arrived in the promised land. I was legally there, and there was work to be done.

To be continued.....

A message from David Sutch:

My mother, Wyn Sutch, has recently died.

ANSWERS

1. Princess Diana on TV Interview
2. Kenneth Wolstenholme commentary on England's last 5 mins in the football world cup.
3. PM Margaret Thatcher.
4. Martin Luther King.
5. Proverbs 9.3. This is attributed to Solomon.
6. Harry S Truman, USA President.
7. A phrase attributed to Sherlock Holmes telling Dr Watson how he solved a crime.
8. Sir Edward Grey to his journalist friend Alfred Spender, Editor of the Westminster Gazette.
9. Attributed to both Fredrick the Great and Napoleon 1st
10. Catch phrase of Mae West film Star.
11. The Book of Ecclesiastes 3.4. Another book attributed to Solomon.
12. Samuel Johnson (aka Dr Johnson), who was the author of the 'Dictionary of the English Language' which was published in 1755.
13. Harold Wilson PM on devaluing the pound.
14. A song adapted from American actor and dramatist John Howard Payne's 1823 opera *Clari, or the Maid of Milan*, the song's melody was composed by Englishman Sir Henry Bishop with lyrics by Payne. Bishop had earlier published a more elaborate version of this melody, naming it "A Sicilian Air", but he later confessed to having written it himself.
15. This quotation was penned by the most famous English poet of the Victorian era, Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809-92).
16. Karl Marx, revolutionary Socialist.
17. English Poet John Donne who was dean of St Paul's Cathedral from 1621 to 1631.
18. St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians Chapter 13.
19. Nelson Mandela in his Long Walk to Freedom.
20. Henry Morton Stanley, who had been sent to find him by the New York Herald newspaper in 1869. He found Livingstone in the town of Ujiji on the shores of Lake Tanganyika on 10 November 1871, greeting him with the now famous words "Dr Livingstone, I presume?"

Answer to Bonus question: Ann Delves to Allan Delves!

Allan Delves

My favourite poems - I will walk with God

Dear Readers, continuing my theme on my favorite poems and songs I thought about including another with a religious theme. I wonder how many of you remember that wonderful American tenor Mario Lanza.

He was born to Italian emigrants and named Alfredo Arnold Coccoza but changed his name to his mother's maiden name Lanza.

One of his many famous songs came from the operetta by Stephen Romberg called "The Student Prince". Romberg was born in 1887 to Jewish Hungarian parents but moved to America in 1909. Although he composed many songs, operettas and musicals, including The Desert Song and The Student Prince, the later was not made into a film until the

1950s. Do many of you Readers remember the 50s? I wonder.

A very poignant moment in the film was when actor Edmund Purdom, with singing dubbed by Mario Lanza, sings "I will Walk with God" over his Grandfather's coffin. He was the king of Karlsberg. Prince Karl (MarioLanza) was then due to inherit the title, rule the small Germanic Kingdom and marry a Princess, not the love of his life Kathie, a pretty, popular, and musically inclined barmaid, who holds "court" in the local biergarten.

Walking with God means moving alongside God in unity and faith as you pass through your life's journey. For the most part, focusing on God and following His lead will keep you on the right path. Walk by faith and not by sight for you are never alone.

So here is the very moving song

I'll walk with God
From this day on
His helping hand I'll lean upon
This is my prayer my humble plea
May the lord be ever with me

There is no death though eyes grow dim
There is no fear when I'm near to him
I'll lean on him forever
And he'll forsake me never

I'll walk with God
I'll take his hand
I'll talk with God he'll understand
I'll pray to him
Each day to him

And he'll hear the words that I say
His hand will guide my throne and rod
And I'll never walk alone
While I walk with God

So, dear Readers, what does the Bible say about walking with God? There are too many references to include them all, so I have just selected four: Micah 6:8 “What the LORD is requiring from you— to act with justice, to treasure the LORD’s gracious love, and to walk humbly in the company of your God.”

20. 1 John 1:6-7 “If we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

25. Genesis 24:40 “He said to Abraham, “The LORD before whom I have walked will send his angel with you and make your journey a success”.

John 8:12 “Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”

Popular song writers and singers have used the theme “Walking with God” For instance Daniel O Donnell singing “Footsteps.”

Footsteps walking with me
Footsteps I cannot see
But every move I make
And every step I take
I know they're there with me
They walk with me all the way.

Finally, Readers how could I not include “The Liverpool National Anthem” from the Rodgers and Hammerstein film “Carousel” “You will never walk alone” Here it is.

When you walk through a storm
Keep your head up high
And don't be afraid of the dark
At the end of the storm
Is a golden sky
And the sweet, silver song of the lark

Walk on through the wind
Walk on through the rain
Though your dreams be tossed and blown
Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart
And you'll never walk alone
You'll never walk alone.

Readers, think that He will not fail you as long as your faith is strong, whatever road we may walk along.

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All contributions will be gratefully received by the church office or, preferably, please email:

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**The DEADLINE
for the September issue
is 15th August**

Thank you!

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